

something we really need to grant a work visa for?

Our immigration policies are simply out of control. We have hit a record number of immigrants coming into the country. In fact, so many are coming in that people with criminal records are getting by like they were moving through a sieve. We are filling the country with anybody with any excuse or reason who wants to come. People like Mr. Kansi are getting in by lying, false records, or whatever they want to present. They wind up here one way or another and we simply refuse to send them out.

Our immigration policies are out of control and people are coming without being examined, without being checked. They are here. The World Trade Center bombing is an example. The shooting at the Empire State Building is another. The CIA killing in 1993 is another. All of these acts were committed by people that were willingly let into this country. How many instances does it take like this before we have the common sense to change the immigration laws that we are letting wreck this country?

I think we need to take a hard look at the laws and determine if we are letting people into this country that are prone to commit terrorist acts against the Nation once they get here.

One of the basic problems, of course, with immigration is that we have a more-than-generous welfare system—more than generous. People are coming into this country not to work, but to sit down. They are coming here to become part of our welfare system, not to become part of our work force. When we attempted to change our welfare laws and cut off cash assistance to non-citizens, the Congress got frightened, and we decided it was being too harsh not to give cash money to noncitizens. How cruel could we be not to hand out cash to an illegal noncitizen? We have perpetrated an immigration system that is out of control.

Madam President, we know that there are many people who want to be Americans. Many people want to come here and make a contribution to the United States. We have a long history of immigration. We are all descendants of immigrants from somewhere at one time, except Native Americans. But somewhere we have gone wrong. At one point, people came to this country to work and to labor and be a part of it. But now they come to be a part of charity. I think we began to go wrong when we lost common sense in our immigration policies.

Madam President, I think the problem began when we lost common sense altogether in the Government, and particularly with the welfare programs supporting the things that these people were coming for. Why should we give noncitizens welfare? Why should the Federal Government punish a county or town if they don't print documents in languages other than English? Madam President, we do that.

Why do we have pages and pages of legislative language just to define the word "work." I think anybody that has done a day's work would not need 14 pages of legalese language to describe it. Madam President, again, I want to thank the agents with the CIA and the FBI that played a role in bringing this man back to the United States. They represent what is best about the country. But the immigration laws that allowed Mr. Kansi to get into this country and to stay here represent the worst.

I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER [Mr. FAIRCLOTH]. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the introduction of S. 934 and S. 935 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

In the absence of any other Senator present, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DENYING VETERANS BENEFITS IN CAPITAL CASES

Mr. SPECTER. First, Mr. President, I would like to update my colleagues on our efforts to have an amendment on veterans benefits occasioned by the conviction of Timothy McVeigh who does have veterans benefits. We have been working to put the legislation in final form, and I think we are now very close to it. If we can accomplish that, we still have time today to introduce the bill and, I think, to get a rollcall vote on it. That will be the final call, obviously, of our majority leader, Senator LOTT, but I do think we have a chance to do that.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the submission of Senate Resolution 102 are located in today's RECORD under "Submissions of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I yield the floor in the absence of any other Senator seeking recognition and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DENYING VETERANS BENEFITS IN FEDERAL CAPITAL OFFENSES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of our distinguished majority leader, Senator LOTT, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 923, and I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 923.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 923) to deny veterans benefits to persons convicted of Federal capital offenses.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 414

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, there is an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] proposes an amendment numbered 414.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 1, lines 4 and 5, strike "or star".

Mr. SPECTER. During the pendency of this bill, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 5 minutes be allotted to Senator NICKLES for debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, at this time I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are ordered on final passage of the bill.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this bill would amend existing law to deny benefits to veterans who have been convicted of a Federal capital offense. Current law denies such benefits to veterans convicted of Federal crimes, such as sabotage, treason, and sedition, but not murder.

I offer this bill on behalf of myself and my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Senator TORRICELLI, and also Senator BYRD, Senator NICKLES, Senator INHOFE, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator CAMPBELL, and the distinguished Presiding Officer, Senator SANTORUM.

Mr. President, yesterday I was informed by staff in the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which I chair, that there is a gap in the law which allows Mr. Timothy McVeigh to be entitled to veterans benefits notwithstanding his murder of 168 persons, and his conviction

for murder in the first degree in connection with his terrorist attack on the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995.

Frankly, I was surprised to learn of the current gap in the law which would allow him to claim veterans benefits. Those guilty of offenses such as sedition, treason, and espionage forfeit veterans benefits, but those who are guilty of murder in the first degree do not.

The terrorist attack in Oklahoma City was the most heinous criminal act in the history of the United States of America, to my knowledge. It resulted in the murder of 168 persons, including many children. It also resulted in the wounding and maiming of hundreds of others who were in that building.

Yesterday, Senator TORRICELLI introduced legislation similar to mine. We talked this morning, and we decided to join our efforts. Senator LOTT consented to have the matter placed on the calendar for quick action. And we have had it now cleared by all Senators.

I think this is a piece of legislation which ought to be adopted promptly. It would set a mark, saying that capital murderers, like those who commit espionage and similar offenses, forfeit a variety of veterans benefits. I cannot say exactly what benefits Mr. McVeigh might be eligible for—there could be a variety of possibilities, including education, employment or housing benefits. Certainly he would be entitled to burial benefits, under current law. It surely would be unseemly to have Timothy McVeigh buried in a veterans cemetery with heroes who served the United States of America.

So I believe this is a fair piece of legislation. We ought to act on it promptly.

I am pleased now to yield to my distinguished cosponsor, the Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. TORRICELLI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to join my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, in offering this legislation, and very proud, as a Member of this institution, that Senator SPECTER has taken the leadership in correcting what would clearly be an inexplicable action upon the execution of Timothy McVeigh.

Mr. President, in the United States today there are 114 national cemeteries. They contain the bodies of 2.5 million brave Americans who have fought for over 200 years to protect this country, its people, and its ideals. Fifty-seven of those cemeteries remain open. And many Americans living in the last years of their lives who fought bravely for this country intend one day to be interred into that soil.

I do not know how the Members of this Senate, how this Government could ever explain to those brave souls

or their families who will visit those national cemeteries through the years, generation after succeeding generation, if by chance some of that soil, one of those graves, next to someone they love and they admire and respect, were to contain the body in a Federal grave of someone who committed a capital offense against the U.S. Government.

Timothy McVeigh is responsible for the greatest loss of life in a terrorist act of anyone in the long and proud history of these United States. When he committed that act and took the lives of these brave Americans, including officers and employees of the U.S. Government, he forfeited, according to a jury of his peers, his life.

Today, by the actions of the U.S. Senate, he can also have forfeited his right to be buried and have the honor of being in the sacred ground of a national cemetery of the United States.

Mr. President, a person cannot both commit a capital offense and then receive the high honor of the U.S. Government for having served this country. They are in conflict. They cannot both occur.

I am very proud today once again to be joining with Senator SPECTER in offering this legislation. I am very pleased to have received the support of Senator ROCKEFELLER and so many of our colleagues. I am very proud today to be offering this legislation.

By our action today, we let every family of every brave American who remains at rest in these national cemeteries to know these soils will remain sacred, these cemeteries will remain only the home for the brave. That is the exclusion we vote upon today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. We are awaiting Senator NICKLES.

We invite other Senators to make a statement, but in the interim I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, first, I wish to thank Senator SPECTER, Senator TORRICELLI, and Senator INHOFE for bringing this bill to the floor, and also Senator LOTT for bringing it to the floor this quickly.

I think it is somewhat of a tragedy. I read in today's paper that an official of the Department of Veterans Affairs said that Tim McVeigh would be eligible to be buried in a national cemetery. I think that would be a desecration of our national cemeteries. I think it would be an affront to all the veterans who are buried in a national cemetery and to their families. And so I want to compliment my colleagues for bringing this to the floor so quickly.

In looking at the statutes, there is a forfeiture of veterans benefits for a lot of crimes: mutiny, sedition, harboring and concealing persons who have committed espionage crimes, gathering classified information for a foreign government, treason, rebellion, insurrection, and advocating the overthrow of the Government. But there is not for a Federal capital offense.

Mr. McVeigh was found guilty by a jury, with a unanimous verdict of murdering—actually, I think the verdict was murdering eight Federal agents, Federal officers. He is responsible for the murdering or the deaths of 168 individuals, including 19 children. He planned this terrorist attack. It was not done at the spur of the moment. He planned it for months, maybe for years. He was found guilty. The jury has made, in my opinion, the appropriate sentence, a sentence that is appropriate for a crime of this magnitude—the death sentence.

Certainly it would be a dishonor to our national cemeteries and the veterans if he was accorded veterans benefits, both financial benefits as well as burial rights in our national cemetery. I think it would desecrate the cemetery. I think that is certainly sacred ground, hallowed ground, honoring our national veterans, individuals that gave their lives in service to their country, individuals who served our country and were willing to give their lives.

To have Mr. McVeigh buried alongside our national heroes I think would be a serious, serious mistake and a real denigration to our national heroes.

So, Mr. President, I am happy to cosponsor this legislation. I am happy with the leadership of the Senate and the leadership of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator SPECTER, and Mr. TORRICELLI, for bringing this to the floor of the Senate. And I am hopeful that it will receive a unanimous vote in this Senate and also be adopted by our colleagues in the House.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I support a bill to correct a serious problem made apparent by the recent conviction of Timothy McVeigh for his cowardly act of terrorism. I was in the process of drafting a bill on this issue, but in light of the scope of the bill proposed by the Veteran's Committee chairman, I am pleased to join as a cosponsor of this legislation to accomplish my goals.

Our Nation remains outraged at that terrorist act and the individual who was convicted of committing it. We now are further outraged at the thought of that person being eligible for burial in a military cemetery beside our fallen brothers and sisters.

As you well know, Mr. President, these military burials function to honor the brave men and women who have placed themselves in harm's way in order to defend our freedom and the system of government that has protected us for more than 200 years. As a

Korean war veteran and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am personally aware of the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform to serve and protect these freedoms.

When anyone seeks to destroy our system of government by acts of terrorism, it is certainly a slap in the face to those who have served to protect freedom. Allowing that individual to be buried alongside truly honorable veterans is not only an injustice, it is disrespectful of the memory of those buried in our military cemeteries and to their families who sacrificed as well.

This bill, introduced by Senator SPECTER, expands the criteria by which a veteran should be denied benefits and although I had planned to introduce such a bill, I am pleased to cosponsor S. 923 to be absolutely certain that any individual convicted of a crime as heinous as the Oklahoma City bombing will never be buried among our Nation's heroes.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 414) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, and was read the third time.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I believe we are already for a vote on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the measure? If not, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] and the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON] is absent attending a funeral.

I further announce that the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] is absent due to a death in the family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Abraham	Feingold	Lugar
Akaka	Feinstein	Mack
Allard	Ford	McCain
Ashcroft	Frist	McConnell
Baucus	Glenn	Mikulski
Bennett	Gorton	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Graham	Moynihhan
Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Murray
Boxer	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Reed
Brownback	Hagel	Reid
Bryan	Harkin	Robb
Bumpers	Hatch	Roberts
Burns	Helms	Rockefeller
Byrd	Hollings	Roth
Campbell	Hutchinson	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cleland	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kennedy	Snowe
Coverdell	Kerrey	Specter
Craig	Kerry	Stevens
D'Amato	Kohl	Thomas
DeWine	Kyl	Thompson
Dodd	Landrieu	Thurmond
Domenici	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Dorgan	Leahy	Warner
Durbin	Levin	Wellstone
Enzi	Lieberman	Wyden
Faircloth	Lott	

NOT VOTING—2

Daschle Johnson

The bill (S. 923), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 923

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DENIAL OF VETERANS BENEFITS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is convicted of a Federal capital offense is ineligible for benefits provided to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to title 38, United States Code.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RICHARD MATSCH

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, the Oklahoma City bombing trial of Timothy McVeigh has concluded in Denver. The jury found McVeigh guilty on all 11 counts against him, and he has been sentenced to death.

Now that these proceedings are over, I take this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding service of Chief Judge Richard

Matsch who presided over the Oklahoma City bombing trial at a time when many of us here in this body are considering the appointment process for Federal judges. His leadership has provided many Americans a renewed faith in the judicial process. His example of fair, firm leadership is an outstanding model we should consider for future Federal judicial appointments.

Many members of the legal profession and the media predicted that the Oklahoma City bombing trial would last 4 months. Under Judge Matsch's calm, competent direction, the trial concluded in only 2 months.

Judge Matsch has an impressive legal career. He was associate editor of the law review at the University of Michigan School of Law. After law school, he joined the U.S. Army and became an intelligence officer. When he left the Army, he moved to Denver where he was in private practice. Judge Matsch went on to become a city attorney, a Federal prosecutor, and a bankruptcy judge before President Nixon nominated him to the Federal bench in 1974. In 1994 he was elevated to chief judge.

Judge Richard Matsch has earned the admiration of his colleagues and lawyers who have appeared before him. Lawyers and colleagues from the bench praised the choice of Matsch to preside over the trial noting that he has the appropriate judicial temperament. One attorney who has argued before him said poetically, Judge Matsch "is better than indoor plumbing."

In light of the skillful and professional way Judge Matsch handled the proceedings of the McVeigh trial, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Judge Matsch to our justice system and commending him for his firm, swift justice in such a tragic case. He has touched the lives of many Americans with his outstanding service, and has renewed the faith in all of us that justice can be served.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

AUTHORIZATION FOR EAST-WEST CENTER

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, during the negotiations to achieve passage of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1997, a number of concessions had to be made to accommodate competing interests. One such example was the continuation of the authorization for the East-West Center at the current level of \$10 million for both fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

According to its budget justification, the East-West Center seeks to improve understanding and relations between Asia, the Pacific islands, and America. While this may be a worthwhile endeavor, we must question whether it merits a direct subsidy when the center seems to duplicate State Department activities and other private business, academic, cultural exchange, and tourism programs.